

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:
My name is Wilneli Contreras, I am a mother from the Dominican Republic, I live in New Haven and I came to this country with my three children and their father 5 years ago. I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

Medical health is very important for us and even more so when there are minors in order to prevent any medical condition. During the five years that I have been in this country, I have always paid for medical care for my three children, even when I knew I could not afford it. The only source of income comes from the father of my children and he does not have a stable job since he does not have any legal status. I take my children to the clinic but it is always for a pay scale and we still have overdue bills to pay. I hope that your initiative will be of help to all families with children without documentation.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you,
Wilneli Contreras